

More Than Bootstraps

It takes
MORE THAN
BOOTSTRAPS
to succeed



December 2021



MTB News

FIRST GEN PANEL: OPTIONS & CHOICES

On November 13, our students heard from first-generation panelists E.J. Mitchell (Ohio, Amherst College, MTB Advisory Board), Catherine Sposato (Passaic, Columbia U), Franklin Tapia (Passaic, TCNJ), and Jocelyn Gonzalez (Passaic, TCNJ, MTB Leader - 2020-2021). As we know, there is no single, “right” path to and through higher education; especially for first-generation students where complex factors further complicates decisions that are difficult for all students. Commute or dorm? PWI (predominately white institution) or MSI (minority serving institution)? Community college, liberal arts college, university? How to weigh costs, prestige, and/or distance. Our students were able to ask pertinent questions relevant to their respective situations.

Check out this clip from our panelist Cat Sposato!



FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

Over some weeks in November and December, our HS Fellows, guided by their College Student Leaders, have been talking with their families about expectations for college. These conversations are difficult. Students need to ask their families about tax and income information that will be necessary for financial aid; families need to think about what it will mean for their children to take on the responsibility of college while continuing to fulfill family and financial responsibilities. Communication is critical but far from easy. On Saturday, December 11, the full group of HS Fellows and College Student Leaders will gather to process these conversation.

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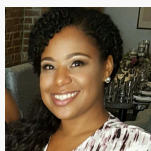


TIME MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

There are 24 hours in a day and 168 hours in one week. Therefore, planning becomes essential with school, extracurricular activities, studying, other responsibilities, and free time to get things done. Sometimes, we may start procrastinating or feeling burnt out due to having so much on our plate. Erica and Marsha planned and hosted a time management workshop to help our students reflect on how they are spending their time and what changes need to be made so that they can can prioritize what they consider the most important.

THE MTB DESK

“ Never hesitate to ask questions and seek guidance from peers, mentors, and educators. Even when you face a bump in the road, be open to attempting a different approach towards the same goal. Know that you have what it takes to be successful and there is no challenge too great for you to overcome. ”



Janelly Jose
MTB Board Member



Upcoming

HIGH SCHOOL VISITS

During the week of December 20, our MTB HS Fellows and College Student Leaders will be visiting freshman and sophomore classes at the three Passaic Public High Schools to help their younger peers begin thinking about higher education. Not only will they be giving back to the Passaic community with these visits, but they will be using their leadership, communication, and collaboration skills to coordinate, plan, and conduct these visits.

YEAR IN REVIEW

As we come to the end of 2021, I want to offer my thanks to all who share and have invested in our vision of a community of first-generation, underrepresented students who empower each other to access and succeed in higher education.

In our second year of programming, we are grateful to all the students and all the donors, volunteers, interns, teachers, administrators, and board members who have contributed to our More Than Bootstraps community. Because of each of you, none of our students has to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Because of everyone who has lent a hand, all of our students can spend their time and energy pulling each other up!

Audrey Fisch
MTB President